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MEXICO WEEKLY LEDGER.

R. M. WHITE, Editor and Proprietor.
VOL. XXXV.

To Our Pride in the Past and Our Hope for the Future, Let Us Add Vigorous Work in the Living Present.

MEXICO, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1893.

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NO. 18.

FARMERS
ALL SUBSCRIBE
For the Weekly Ledger
Because They Want
Reliable Market Reports
STOCK, WHEAT, SALES, AGRICULTURAL
MATTERS OF INTEREST
To All On The Farm.

THE professional croaker is, as usual, doing his full share to bring on trouble; it is his nature.

LET the Business Men's Association of Mexico act in connection with the Christian Church and secure for us a male college.

THE fellow who knows exactly what President Cleveland's message to Congress will contain is beginning to be careful about giving out the information.

STOP talking hard money and let loose of your money. If everyone will pay his debts and do business as of yore there will be no stringency in the market.

THE country fairs this season throughout the country are proving most prosperous. It is too bad that Mexico could not have been in the midst of this year.

THERE are indications that the Republicans propose trying to make "Corporal" Tanner the scape-goat or much of the pension crookedness that is being exposed.

MONEY is just as plenty in the country to-day as it was a year ago and if the holders of the same will only put it into circulation the chronic talk of hard times would cease.

THE talk about President Cleveland finding it difficult to fill the Supreme Court vacancy is all bosh. Why the woods are full of good democrats competent to adorn the Supreme Court, and perfectly willing, too, to do it.

REPUBLICAN editors who are peck-sure that the Democrats in Congress are going to abandon tariff reform should stop generalizing on that subject and name one single prominent Democrat who advocates abandonment of tariff reform.

WE notice that while the banks of some of the large cities throughout the United States are failing, some of St. Louis remain solid. Banking in St. Louis is conducted on a conservative business basis and there is no danger of any failures there.

WE are sure that the charges made against the parents of two children this county will be thoroughly investigated. Mr. and Mrs. Heinbaugh are charged with starving their infant child to death, while a Mr. Wheeler stands charged with the death of his child from a similar cause and also with terrible indignities to his wife.

DR. H. K. HINDE's suggestion that the Christian Church of Missouri could erect in Mexico a male college we think worthy of acting upon. A number of the leading members of that church have expressed themselves to us as in favor of this movement and will give liberally of their time and money. We think that if the Business Men's Association of Mexico will take this matter up with the church the enterprise will be a success.

THERE appears to be some difference of opinion among the LEDGER's correspondents in reference to the conducting of funerals. In our opinion the grave yard is not the place for an exhibition of grief and sorrow. In a great many countries the ladies do not attend the body to the grave and only such gentlemen as are necessary to take care of the remains go. In some countries no relatives attend the funeral, only the all bearers going. If an extended display of grief and sorrow is thought proper, the services at the grave should be extended from day to day and the length of time should be determined in proportion to the sorrow felt on account of the death.

THE St. Louis Republic editorially says: A Mr. X. C., who seems to be trying to find out something, writes in the Mexico (Mo.) LEDGER that the Republic is not strong enough on silver for him. And then he names Stewart of Nevada as a man who will do valiant service for the people. X. C., you are sliding into the trackless plains of nothingness. The Republic is on the Democratic platform. Stewart is the proprietor of a Legislature and a seller of bullion.

THE Republic showed yesterday, on the authority of John Sherman, that Stewart said in 1891: "Free coinage is impracticable. It is all nonsense, and the men are dishonest who want it." He cared not a dime's worth for the coinage of silver into money if he could sell bullion to the Government. His bimetalism is not as deep as a freckle. Of course he and others who are churning at public opinion to get up opposition to a suspension of the Sherman act are ready now to profess enthusiastic friendship for the Western masses. But when the battle of the people gets under such leadership as a deal with the tariff will be quickly made and legislation will consist principally of subsidies. The country has been forced into a bad purchase system. Suspend the Sherman act and pass a coinage act according to the Democratic programme laid down in the platform.

COINAGE LEGISLATION.

Ex-State Senator Heaton Traces the Development of Silver and Gold.

BETHANY, Mo., July 25.—At this time, when the discussion of the silver question is so prominent, the following brief synopsis of the legislation of Congress in reference to the coinage of gold and silver should be interesting and instructive:

The first law of Congress was the act of April 2, 1792, over 100 years ago, entitled "An act establishing a mint and regulating the coins of the United States." Among other things it provided:

"Sec. 9. That there shall be from time to time struck and coined at the said mint coins of gold, silver and copper of the following denominations, values and descriptions, viz.: Eagles—each to be of the value of ten dollars or units, and to contain 247 grains and four-eighths of a grain of pure or 270 grains of standard gold" (and half eagles and quarter eagles to contain half and quarter the amount of gold, and these were the only gold coins provided for).

"Dollars or units—each to be of the value of the Spanish milled dollar as the same is now current, and to contain 371 grains and four-sixteenths parts of a grain of pure or 416 grains of standard silver" (and also provided for coining half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes and half dimes, to contain respectively one-half, one-fourth, one-tenth and one-twentieth as much silver as the dollar or unit).

"Sec. 11. That the proportion of value of gold to silver in all coins which shall by law be current as money within the United States shall be as 15 to 1, according to the quantity in weight of pure gold or pure silver; that is to say, every 15 pounds' weight of pure silver shall be of equal value in all payments with one pound weight of pure gold, and so in proportion as to any greater or less quantities of the respective metals."

"Sec. 12. Provided that gold coins should have 11 parts pure gold to 1 part alloy of silver and copper, and the silver not to be more than half."

"Sec. 13. Provided that silver coins should have 1485 parts silver to 179 parts alloy, the alloy to be copper."

In February, 1793, an act was passed regulating the value of foreign coins, which provided that Spanish milled dollars of not less weight than 17 pennyweights and 7 grains should be legal tender in any payment of all debts and demands at the rate of \$1, and in proportion for the parts of a dollar.

The act of June 28, 1834, concerning gold coins, provided that the gold coins should contain metal as follows: Each eagle shall contain 232 grains of pure gold and 258 grains of standard gold, and the half eagle and quarter eagle shall contain one-half and one-fourth said amounts, and shall be legal tender when of full weight for \$10, \$5 and \$2.50, respectively, and when of less weight in like proportion.

Here it will be noticed the weight of the gold coins was reduced, and has since remained of the weight specified in the law of 1834.

The act of January 18, 1837, continued the gold coins as above, and provided that the silver dollar should be of the weight of 412½ grains, and the half dollar, quarter dollar, dime and half dime should be in proportion thereto, and that both gold and silver coins should be of nine-tenths pure metal and one-tenth alloy, and that all such coins when of full weight should be legal tender of payments according to their nominal value for any sums whatever.

The act of March 3, 1849, provided for coining the double eagle and one-dollar gold piece. This was the first time the gold dollar was authorized and introduced into our coinage.

IN 1851 PRESIDENT FILLMORE IN HIS MESSAGE TO CONGRESS STATED THAT OUR SILVER COINS WERE TOO HEAVY, AND WERE IN CONSEQUENCE TAKEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY BE REDUCED IN WEIGHT.

The act of February 21, 1853, provided that the half dollar, or piece of 50 cents, shall be 192 grains, and that the quarter dollar, dime and half dime, respectively, shall be one-half, one-fifth and one-tenth of the weight of the half dollar, and that such coins should be legal tender at their nominal value for sums of \$5.

An act was passed in 1851 for the coinage of the 3-cent piece, which was to be a legal tender for sums of 30 cents and under. And in 1865 it was amended so as to make it legal tender for sums of 60 cents.

The act of February 12, 1873, was entitled "An act revising and amending the laws relative to the mints, assay offices and coinage of the United States." The main provisions of present interest are as follows:

"Sec. 13. That the standard for both gold and silver coins of the United States shall be such that of 1,000 parts by weight 900 shall be pure metal and 100 alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper, or of copper and silver; but the silver in no case shall exceed one-tenth of the whole alloy."

"Sec. 14. That the gold coins of the United States shall be a one-dollar piece, which, at the standard weight of 25.8 grains, shall be the unit of value; a quarter eagle, or two and a half dollar piece, a three-dollar piece, a half eagle or five-dollar piece, an eagle or ten-dollar piece and a double eagle or a twenty-dollar piece." It then provided that the weight of the other coins shall be the proper multiple of the dollar, and shall when of full weight be a legal tender for all payments, and when of less weight shall be of proper proportion.

"Sec. 15. That the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade dollar, a half dollar or 50-cent piece, a quarter dollar or 25-cent piece, a dime or 10-cent piece; and the weight of the trade dollar shall be 420 grains Troy, the weight of the half dollar shall be 12 grammes and one-half of a gramme; the quarter dollar and the dime shall be respectively one-half and one-fifth of the weight of said half dollar, and said coins shall be a legal tender at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding \$5 in any one payment."

Section 16 makes the 5-cent piece or a nickel, a 3-cent piece and a 1-cent piece the minor coins and a legal tender to the amount of 25 cents.

"Sec. 17. That no coins, either of gold, silver or minor coinage, shall hereafter be issued from the mint other than those of the denominations and weights herein set forth."

This is the substance of the act of 1873, the cause of our financial troubles, the liad of all our woes. It will be noticed that the standard silver dollar is dropped, and for the first time the gold dollar is made the unit of value. The silver dollar is mentioned in the law of 1892 as the unit of value and the first silver dollar was so stamped. I have a silver dollar of date 1800 and imprinted on the outer edge are the words, "One Hundred Cents, One Dollar or Unit," showing that it was the idea and object of the fathers of the Republic to make the silver dollar the unit or real measure of values in the nation. Let us look a little more into the history of this act of 1873. Samuel Hooper, of Massachusetts, was chairman of the Committee on Coins, Weights and Measures in 1872 and introduced a bill in reference to coinage, as he said, to simplify the laws and drop the useless 20-cent piece and 2-cent piece. The bill as he introduced it, and as it passed the House, retained the standard silver dollar, but reduced its weight to 384 grains. On April 9, 1872, Mr. Hooper called up his bill, and in the course of his speech called attention to the provision, "reducing the weight of silver dollar from 412½ to 384 grains, thus making it a subsidiary coin in harmony with the silver coins of less denominations to secure its concurrent circulation with them." He further said "that the silver dollar of 412½ grains, by reason of its bullion or intrinsic value, long since ceased to be a coin of circulation, and is melted by manufacturers of silverware."

It was not then urged that the silver dollar lacked intrinsic value, or that too many were coined, but upon the contrary, that it was a long-legged dollar and was too scarce. When the bill went to the Senate it fell into the fine financial hands of John Sherman, the prince of jugglers, who caused several amendments to be added which were non-concurred in by the House in gross, and a committee of conference was appointed of which Sherman and Hooper were chief manipulators, and it was finally passed as copied without division in either house, and perhaps without a dozen members knowing its venomous character, and afterwards the country waked up to the fact that the unit of value had been fraudulently, surreptitiously changed, and a vast majority of the people have since been asking to have the wrong righted, but have only realized fraudulent makeshifts.

On April 28, 1890, Mr. Leech, Director of the Mint, made a report to the Secretary of the Treasury on the production and coinage of the precious metals, which report was published by authority of Congress. On page 246 of this printed report is a table giving the average price of bar silver in London each year from 1833 to 1890, and at no time from 1834 to 1872 was silver quoted at an average of less than \$1.30 per ounce, in 1872 being quoted at \$1.32, or 3 per cent above gold. On page 248 the commercial ratio of silver to gold is given for each year for the last 200 years, and at no time for 200 years prior to 1872 is silver quoted at less than 14 to 1 and never as high as 16 to 1, hence there was no cause at that time for striking down silver on account of its intrinsic value.

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It appears from Mrs. Wheeler's evidence that her husband not only caused the child's death by his inhuman treatment, but that he has tormented her in a horrible manner, at times declaring he would kill her. HER EVIDENCE AT THE INQUEST.

Mrs. Sallie Wheeler, the mother of the deceased child, testified that she was 24 years of age and had been married to Robert Wheeler 2 years. She said her little child was 4 months old when it died on July 18th, its demise having taken place at the home of her father, Mr. Robert Blanton, in Boone county. She said her husband told her before the child was born that he would not buy it anything or treat it well, especially if it was a girl. After its birth he treated it in a horrible manner. He would take it by the nose and hold it, thus smothering it until it was almost unconscious. At other times he would take it and hold it straight up and slap it so hard that it would fall almost dead. He would not let me interfere. He told me if I would leave the house he would not treat it so badly. He would then throw the child in the cradle and never did I lay it down kindly. If I objected he would go on with his meanness. While I was out of the house I would scream and he was afraid the neighbors would hear me. He would tell me if I did not hush that he would kill me and the baby too. One night about 2 o'clock he acted in this way, getting up, and after dressing he would go to the house. I asked him what he was doing and he said that he was planning a way to kill me and the baby—d—n young one. He said he was going to Centralia to get a gun for this purpose. The day I left for my father's he got on his horse and left and I went walking behind him with my baby and its clothes. He went to Mr. Summers and asked for a gun. Mr. Summers asked him what he wanted with it and he said he wanted to go squirrel hunting. On the 4th of July we went to Centralia. Miss Mattie Barkwell accompanied us, going on my husband's invitation. As we returned home that afternoon he treated me and the baby outrageously. He said he wished a big rain storm would come up and drown me and the child.

Mrs. Wheeler said on one occasion her husband got up at 2 o'clock in the night and threatened her and the baby's life, and that he took hold of the little one by the chin and pressed its head back and choked it until it could not cry; then he would pinch it to make it cry. "At another time," said Mrs. Wheeler, "he laid the child on the floor and, putting his foot over its head, said: 'See how easy I could kill the damn little thing and then swear you did it yourself.'"

THE VERDICT OF THE JURY. The verdict of the jury was that the child came to its death from bad treatment on the part of its father. The jury was as follows: W. H. Brown, M. A. Andrews, E. A. Gay, J. P. Hedges, W. B. Blackmer and J. G. Brown. Prosecuting Attorney J. G. Trimble sworn out a warrant for the accused and Deputy Sheriff Stephens went to Boone county after him.

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Mrs. Sallie Wheeler, the mother of the deceased child, testified that she was 24 years of age and had been married to Robert Wheeler 2 years. She said her little child was 4 months old when it died on July 18th, its demise having taken place at the home of her father, Mr. Robert Blanton, in Boone county. She said her husband told her before the child was born that he would not buy it anything or treat it well, especially if it was a girl. After its birth he treated it in a horrible manner. He would take it by the nose and hold it, thus smothering it until it was almost unconscious. At other times he would take it and hold it straight up and slap it so hard that it would fall almost dead. He would not let me interfere. He told me if I would leave the house he would not treat it so badly. He would then throw the child in the cradle and never did I lay it down kindly. If I objected he would go on with his meanness. While I was out of the house I would scream and he was afraid the neighbors would hear me. He would tell me if I did not hush that he would kill me and the baby too. One night about 2 o'clock he acted in this way, getting up, and after dressing he would go to the house. I asked him what he was doing and he said that he was planning a way to kill me and the baby—d—n young one. He said he was going to Centralia to get a gun for this purpose. The day I left for my father's he got on his horse and left and I went walking behind him with my baby and its clothes. He went to Mr. Summers and asked for a gun. Mr. Summers asked him what he wanted with it and he said he wanted to go squirrel hunting. On the 4th of July we went to Centralia. Miss Mattie Barkwell accompanied us, going on my husband's invitation. As we returned home that afternoon he treated me and the baby outrageously. He said he wished a big rain storm would come up and drown me and the child.

Mrs. Wheeler said on one occasion her husband got up at 2 o'clock in the night and threatened her and the baby's life, and that he took hold of the little one by the chin and pressed its head back and choked it until it could not cry; then he would pinch it to make it cry. "At another time," said Mrs. Wheeler, "he laid the child on the floor and, putting his foot over its head, said: 'See how easy I could kill the damn little thing and then swear you did it yourself.'"

THE VERDICT OF THE JURY. The verdict of the jury was that the child came to its death from bad treatment on the part of its father. The jury was as follows: W. H. Brown, M. A. Andrews, E. A. Gay, J. P. Hedges, W. B. Blackmer and J. G. Brown. Prosecuting Attorney J. G. Trimble sworn out a warrant for the accused and Deputy Sheriff Stephens went to Boone county after him.

WHEELER IN JAIL. Deputy Sheriff Stephens arrived late that afternoon with the prisoner and he was locked up in the county jail. A LEDGER reporter called on him and asked if he had anything to say. "Am not guilty," said the prisoner in a very positive tone. When told that he had not only been accused of causing his child's death, but of mistreating his wife, he said: "I never beat her, although I was influenced to plead guilty to such a charge before a Justice of the Peace at Thompson Station. I was told that would be the easiest way out of it. I never did whip her." When questioned about the death of his child Wheeler said: "I did not mistreat it. While I was plowing in the field my wife took the child and went to her folks in Boone county. They never let me know anything about the child's illness nor its death."

This case is somewhat similar to that of Lloyd Heinbaugh and wife, of Rowena, who are now under arrest, charged with starving an

AWFUL ACCUSATION.

DID ROBT WHEELER'S CRUELTY CAUSE THE DEATH OF HIS CHILD?

The Corpse Disinterred and a Coroner's Inquest Held—The Mother's Awful Story.

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